

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered By Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV, on 30th October 1998

The subject of today's sermon would be in continuation of that of Friday last which concerns modesty. But before that I would mention that the Mubarak Mosque in The Hague (Holland) which is the first mosque to have been constructed with the donations made by *Lajna Imaillah*.¹ Hazrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafarullah Khan laid its foundation stone on 20th May 1955 and the same year on 8th December upon the completion of its construction it was also inaugurated by him. This was a small but very beautiful mosque. Some insurgents set fire to it in 1987 but could not be caught. In those days when the members of the *Jamat* had gathered here to take part in the *Jalsa* certain incidents took place of insurgents attacking Ahmadiyya mosques and Preaching Centres throughout the world by setting fire to them.

When this mosque was burnt at most 50 people could pray there. I told them at the time that Allah the Almighty would enable you to build a mosque 10 times bigger. Now when the mosque has been reconstructed although the reconstructed area is not 10 times bigger but a survey has revealed that 500 people can pray there. I was to inaugurate it myself upon completion but due to lack of easy access to ferries and other modes of transport because of the bad weather this journey was impossible to undertake. The members of the *Jamat* have taken part in *Waqar e Aml*² services and made great efforts in its reconstruction and rebuilding. In this regard the Architect Abdul Rashid, The *Amir* of Holland Hibatun Nur Verhakhan, Mr. Abdul Hameed, Mr. Hanif and his wife, Mr. Muhammad Yamin, Mr. Zafrullah, Munawar Jamil, Mr. Abdul Qadir et al deserve special mention. The total cost was estimated at f1200000 but this work has actually been accomplished in f1700000. The *Jamat* has saved 60% through public service and *Waqar e Aml*. These are the accounts which would certainly be written in the courts of God.

The Preaching Centre in France used to be a factory. Following various refurbishments it was selected as the centre. It was not registered with the Council as a mosque. However as the worshipers would usually converge in large numbers and especially so at the Friday Service the Council could have criticised this if they had so wished. The local Intelligence carried out a continuous investigation for 8 years until they were fully satisfied. Now it has been registered as a mosque. In this regard the new *Amir* Mr. Ashfaq Rabanni has made special efforts. It was his wish that I should inaugurate this centre formally as a mosque but this journey was not possible due to theforesaid reason.

The MTA Studio France is also being inaugurated today. This *Jamat* has also progressed in preaching and in making financial offerings. In addition to the teaching of children and their moral upbringing, Quran Classes and regular meetings of the new converts have also begun. The books of the *Jamat* are also being donated to the Libraries. I welcome the guests who have arrived there today and pray that tomorrow they would attend as hosts.

The subject of modesty was under discussion in the previous sermon and in this relation there is a Prophetic Hadith:

¹ Auxiliary organisation of Ahmadi ladies.

² Dignity of Labour.

Yahya related to me from Malik from Salama ibn Safwan ibn Salama az-Zuraqi that Zayd ibn Talha ibn Rukana, who attributed it to the Prophet ﷺ said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said 'Every religion has an innate character. The character of Islam is its modesty.'³

This means that modesty has not been a characteristic of any other religion. This point should be remembered when preaching to the other religions because it is the soul of all virtues and the enemy of all immodesty. If modesty had also been the spirit of Christianity the corruptions that can be observed in them today would not have arisen. Moreover whatever is happening in the Muslim countries is because they are no longer modest and it is actually as if they have come out of religion altogether:

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger of Allah said 'Modesty is from faith and faith is in Paradise. Obscenity is from impudence and impudence flourishes in the Fire.'⁴

The fundamental meaning of faith is self-peace and removal of fear. Real tranquillity only comes from modesty. Similarly the Noble Prophet states that 'Modesty grants elegance and immodesty removes elegance.'⁵ The fundamental point of modesty is that one is shy of God that is to be shy of God when doing what God dislikes and the whole secret of honesty and integrity of virtue lies in this. A believer who knows that God always watches him would always be shameful. Those who are not shameful of Allah are shameless to the world. The *Jamat* should especially keep the subject of shame before them. If mothers and fathers can set their children upon modesty alone then they have succeeded.

Some people think that only ladies should have shame, this is incorrect. The shame of ladies who have shameless men does not last very long either. If boys are modest then the girls are also modest. If you learn from Allah how to be modest, if you live as though the *Deus Absconditus* always watches you then that would refute all your troubles. Your home would then become the Paradise about which it is promised that faith is in Paradise. Successful are the believers whose homes have become Paradise in following Allah's Messenger Muhammad.

© Rehan Qayoom / The Tahir Archive, 2016.

³ Malik, Ibn Anas. *Muwatta Imam Malik*.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Abu Isa Muhammad. *Jami` at-Tirmidh*: iv. Tr. Abu Khayal. (6 vols, Darussalam, 2007). 97.

⁵ Bukhari, Muhammad ibn Ismail. *Sahih Bukhari*.